

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 16-26 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Wong for the indication that Claims 1, 3-8, 16, and 26 are allowed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is requested.

The rejections of Claims 9 and 17-25 under (a) 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description), and (b) 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are obviated by amendment.

Applicants have amended the claims to be free of the Examiner's criticisms. Specifically, Applicants have replaced the objected to language "is an amino amino acid other than cysteine" with "represents the residue of a sulfur-containing amino acid or peptide selected from the group consisting of cysteine, homocysteine, glutathione, γ -glutamylcysteine, and cysteinylglycine." Support for this amendment is found, for example, in the specification at page 8, lines 4-13. Thus, the written description rejection is no longer believed to be tenable.

Finally, the claims have been held indefinite due to the confusing use of separately defined R^1 and R^2 substituents in the same claim. To address this criticism, Applicants have redefined the substituents designated R^1 and R^2 in formula (3) as R^3 and R^4 , respectively. As such, Claim 9 (and the claims dependent therefrom) is definite within the context of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants wish to note that within the context of the present invention the phrase "the residue of a sulfur-containing amino acid or peptide selected from the group consisting

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of... wherein the mercapto group of said sulfur-containing amino acid or peptide is present in the [mono-, di-, and/or tri-]sulfide bond of the organic compound represented by Formula [(1), (2), or (3)]” as used in Claims 1 and 9 is meant as the residue resulting from removal of the mercapto group from a sulfur-containing amino acid or peptide containing a sulfur-containing amino acid.

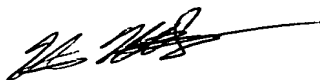
Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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